



WESTERN WELCOMES PRESIDENT

DR. JOHN B. CLARK

THE CUPOLA

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WHAT'S NEW

DR. CLARK
has





arrived

by Paul Steinmetz

DR. JOHN B. CLARK STARTED HIS JOB AS

President of Western Connecticut State University on July 1 with confidence and enthusiasm. "This is the best job I've ever had," he has said often as he meets with students, professors, staff and community members. Clark previously worked for 18 years on Wall Street as a bond trader, mostly in the areas of health and higher education. The terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, caused Clark to reassess his professional priorities and he left the banking industry on Wall Street. Earlier that year he had completed his Doctorate in Education at Columbia Teacher's College, and he was hired by the State University of New York system as interim president of SUNY Plattsburgh. Over the next several years, he served as interim president at Alfred, Brockport and the School of Optometry as well as interim SUNY Chancellor. (SUNY does not allow interim holders of an office to apply for the permanent position.) In 2009 he moved to the City University of New York system, where he was director of the Office of Business and Industry Relations and CUNY Center for Student Entrepreneurship. He and his wife, Carolyn, are the parents of two daughters, Catherine and Bridget. In this interview, Clark discusses his own education, his heritage and his plans for Western. ►

CUPOLA: Has your experience at so many different institutions, often dealing with crises, influenced your approach as you come to Western?

CLARK: I was the fireman of SUNY. I've been in different places, different times, different circumstances, so you pick up perspectives on how to do things, and you get that experience in change and how to manage change. It gave me a skill set in how best to make a positive change rather than negative change. My mantra is you can either change or be changed — so what do you want to do? Especially now in the 21st century, this is a time for great change in the digital age. You can make a choice: You can sit back and you're going to be changed, and that's usually a bad thing, or you make the change happen, and that's usually a good thing.

CUPOLA: We've faced several years of budget problems in Connecticut, leading to things like cuts and tuition increases. How are you going to deal with that?

CLARK: First, place it in context: It's not the end of the world. I have found over the span of my life that there is never a time when there wasn't a crisis. But we are not in the middle of a world war; this is a crisis that is manageable. The goal is to strike a positive

tone on campus and tell people, "Look, the university's mission is a wonderful thing. We are educating the next generation of citizens and leaders, doctors, nurses, teachers, educators, law enforcement officials. And we are going to manage the financial end of things and push forward in a positive fashion." The worst thing you can do is circle the wagons and have a woe-is-me attitude. People want to grow and prosper, and cutting back is counter to our human nature to continually improve and move forward. So we've created a Savings Review and Investment Group (SRIG) to look for savings in areas like sustainability: Is there room for savings in power, in light, electricity? In revenue generation, what can we do to make money for the university within our mission and how do we invest in our future? This may sound counterintuitive to spend money when you're cutting budgets but, for example, what about online learning or career services to make our university more attractive for prospective students? Our major asset is brains — intelligence — and I know as we get the word out and have discussions, people are going to have some brilliant ideas we can use to move Western Connecticut forward in these challenging times.

CUPOLA: How do you give this message so that the institution moves forward but everyone isn't afraid of what might happen?

CLARK: I noticed when I was Chancellor of the SUNY system what made successful presidencies and what made failed presidencies. The days of the ivory tower president who is above it all, the type of president with the false sense of gravitas — which meant I'm better than everybody else and I don't have talk to you — those days are over. That's why we're having departmental meetings, so I can get out and meet as many people as possible, people in our community, faculty, staff and students. And all of a sudden they find out you're accessible. Next they also learn that you'll listen, that their opinions are valued, and then you start to see the ideas flow, with people saying, "I can actually talk to this guy," and you show up and you show up and you show up. So whether it's University Senate meetings, Student Government Association meetings, you're there, you're part of the community, you're not removed. If they feel that a president is really going to effect change here, they want to get in and give advice, and you create that excitement on campus. But most of all, our people want the right kind of change, which respects traditional values because they love the university, they love the students they teach and they want the best for the university.

CUPOLA: Some business people have a difficult time understanding how a university works with faculty sharing governance with the administration. With your business background, was that a problem for you?

CLARK: As an investment banker you're really doing project management. You have different people with different expertise — underwriters, salesmen, bankers, investors, rating agencies, attorneys and your client. But just as in higher ed, everybody is united in a common purpose. I've always brought in people from different fields of expertise and then created constant communication. So I wasn't hierarchical, it was a project-management style where I val-



Left: Chef Jacques Pépin, with President Clark, prepared a meal as a fundraiser to benefit the Ana Grace Project and The Ana Grace Márquez-Greene Scholarship Fund at WCSU.

Below: Dr. Jane Goodall delivered a lecture and dedicated the university's new permaculture garden.





Barnard winners Colleen Mair and Alexis Koukos with President Clark.



Alumnus and longtime supporter Al Mead with President Clark.

ued everyone and got everybody working in the same way and the same timeline to have this successful bond deal. So here, it's certainly not Wall Street but we have a common purpose. We decide what our goals are for the year and who the people are who can tell me what they need so we can move forward and accomplish it.

CUPOLA: As you have introduced yourself to faculty, students, parents, staff and business people, and residents of the towns in the region, you are very open about your background and your upbringing. You frequently mention your family heritage (Irish), your religion (Catholic), your military service in Germany during the Vietnam War and your formative years in the Bronx. What message are you working to convey?

CLARK: For me there's a transparency that one needs to know you and it's also reaching out, making connections with people whatever faith or heritage they are. It connects to my love of history and I am fascinated by people's stories because this is America; it's the immigrant's saga. The great miracle of America is we come from so many different backgrounds. I make the assumption, sometimes entirely mistaken, that people might be interested in my story, too, and more often than not you find some type of commonality there whether it's growing up in New York City or where I went to university or where I worked; there are all sorts of

reach-outs where you can have some very interesting conversations. And the more you learn about people, the more it creates that bond of commonality. We're here for a common purpose — to give our students an excellent education and achieve the American dream.

CUPOLA: For your doctoral dissertation you studied the Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman. What did you learn?

CLARK: As a president, I rely on the basic principle articulated by Newman in his famous quote: "A university is not a foundry, a mint, a treadmill or a factory. It's knowing your students one by one." He spoke of being here for our students' success, the university as the alma mater, and that's what informs me. Most people don't realize Newman was the head of Oratory Prep in Birmingham, England, so he had high school experience. He was chaplain of Oxford University, one of the highest posts in the Anglican Church before he converted to Catholicism, and then he was the first president of the Catholic University in Dublin. His letters and diaries taught me what a president does. Newman is painted as an ivory tower president only concerned with the classic and liberal arts. But he also started the medical school at the Catholic University, which exists today at the University College Dublin. He was very concerned knowing that his young men — women were not admitted to university — would go on to professional careers. What you got from him was a real appreciation for the breadth and depth of knowledge and that his students would have that appreciation in living their lives both professionally and personally. That's our model. Western is going to be the dominant liberal arts and sciences institution in western Connecticut, in the state and the region, with a professional emphasis. So when our students graduate they know their history, literature and philosophy, as well as special expertise in their chosen major so they fit the classic definition of the well-educated person who knows how to think, how to write and how to communicate.

CUPOLA: Enrollment has been down the past few years. What are your plans to increase our numbers?

CLARK: Our first move was to shore up our base, so we've been meeting with the principals and school district superintendents in the region — Bethel, Newtown, New Milford, Brookfield, certainly here in Danbury. These are our traditional feeder schools. We're also talking to our traditional community college feeders, like Naugatuck, Housatonic and Norwalk. We're putting an emphasis on our early college programs that bring students from primary, middle schools, high schools to campus to see that this is what a university is like and this should be part of their aspirations and goals. Then it's sending our admissions staff to the rest of Connecticut. Our first preference in admissions is first-time, full-time Connecticut state residents, and then transfers from our sister community colleges and other colleges and universities. We're also taking a look at out-of-state. We have a long history of attracting students from Putnam and Westchester counties so we're trying to market there. We've been having recruiting trips out through those areas to spread the word about Western Connecticut.



CUPOLA: What are your other goals as you head into the second half of your first year at Western?

CLARK: We're working on a few big ideas. I want Career Services to be a resource where students from their freshman year will start preparing themselves for the job market. To assist that, we're going to commission an annual survey of our graduating students to ascertain how many are graduating with a meaningful job, how many are going on to good graduate programs, how many joined the military. But the most important percentage to me are those students who have not been hired or gotten the next big opportunity. For those students we'll have a reach-out program where they will get a letter from me, copying our director of career services, asking them either to come in or call so we can start helping them. I've told parents that we can't guarantee your son or daughter will get a full-time job when they graduate. But what we can guarantee them is that they will have a lifetime commitment from career services.

We're also going to build on our student entrepreneurship program that will be open to all students, whatever their major. We'll have a student business plan competition that I hope will become an incubator program where they really learn and are able to launch a business, raise funds and make a living. There is a long history of this in the region, where we made our name in the hat industry but then reinvented ourselves, with small businesses becoming a staple of the state economy.

We also have some absolutely tremendous physical assets here, like the Visual and Performing Arts Center. I like to call it our Lincoln Center North. And right across the street we have the Ives Concert Park, which is our version of Tanglewood. Charles Ives is a wonderful role model for our students. Our plans will include aligning two wonderful physical assets not only for our students but also for the region, attracting top talent to both with the support of our benefactors so that we become a destination point.

CUPOLA: Your career hasn't exactly followed a linear path, from Wall Street to Western. What do you make of that?

CLARK: When I started my career on Wall Street, I thought I would be sitting on a beach by now enjoying the sunsets and maybe teaching a class in philosophy at a community college every so often. Because I finished my doctorate in later life when I began making inquiries about joining SUNY in some capacity, I was considered for an interim president's job. As soon as I walked on the campus at SUNY Plattsburgh, I knew it was what I wanted to do. So that's how life works. And that's why I preach to the students never give up; know that your dream may happen in different ways than you intended but that's why you keep moving forward. There are opportunities, you're networking, and that's why education is so important. It opens doors for you as it gives you the knowledge and skill-set necessary to take advantage when these opportunities arise. ■



Chauvin finds new athletic and academic home at WCSU

by Robert Taylor

Louisiana native Carrigan Chauvin knew she was a long way from home when she and her mother arrived at Western in January 2015 in the heart of an especially cold and snowbound New England winter — yet the warm reception they received and the athletic and academic opportunities she discovered here convinced her that she had come to the right place.

The South Terrebonne High School soccer standout, whose roots in her hometown of Chauvin reflect her family's long history in the parishes of the southern Louisiana bayou country, traveled more than 1,300 miles with her mother Melissa to meet with WCSU Women's Soccer Coach Joe Mingachos and members of the Colonials team. She brought only a light jacket — all she ever needed for January weather back home — but after experiencing “the coldest weather of my life, let's just say I left Connecticut with a new winter coat,” she said.

It was more than the opportunity to play soccer at the college level that brought Chauvin to Connecticut: She was also eager to check out Western's meteorology degree program, in anticipation that she will pursue a career as a meteorologist in the broadcasting field.

“I have always been interested in the earth and weather, but it was not until recently that I knew this is exactly what I want to do for a career,” Chauvin said. “It took lots of searching to find a school that matched my needs to earn my desired degree in meteorology, and to join a successful women's soccer team.

“When I found out about WCSU, I emailed Coach Mingachos and came to visit the campus,” she recalled. “I fell in love with the entire atmosphere of Western Connecticut, and the coaches and the team made me feel so welcome. That sealed the deal on making my decision to attend Western.”

For a family that “for as long as anyone can remember” has been born and raised in the Louisiana town that bears her surname, Chauvin admitted that it was a big step to attend college so far from her home “along the bayous where everyone knows each other and where we really do have gators in our backyards.” Docked behind her house is the 65-foot steel trawl boat that her father Carey built and named Lady Melissa, for her mother, to ply the coastal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and work for the past 37 years as a fourth-generation shrimper.

“His boat has served as a place of refuge for every hurricane that has crossed our path — even Katrina, when we waited out the storm in the cabin of the boat and occasionally on the back deck with a video camera,” she recalled. “I have no doubt that going through those experiences sparked the drive that I have to pursue meteorology as a career.”

Her family has also weathered adversity, especially in the aftermath of the 2010 British Petroleum oil spill in the Gulf that put her father and other shrimpers out of work for many months. “My dad, other boat owners and volunteers were out there in the Gulf as soon as they could to clean up the pollution and restore our home,” she said. “We are so blessed that today my dad and all the other families along the bayou are back to their jobs, doing what they love.”

Chauvin, who has played soccer since the age of 10, won several honors at South Terrebonne High School, including the award as best female athlete. ■



HERPETOLOGIST LEAVES A LEGACY TO WCSU

By Paul Steinmetz



Contributed

THEODORA PINOU RESPECTED AND ENVIED THE REPUTATION OF HER PH.D. ADVISER AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, where she was a doctoral student studying North American snakes. She could not have known then, however, that she would be the steward selected to preserve his research heritage for posterity.

When Herndon G. Dowling died in 2015, he left his extensive library of books, field notes, drawings and specimens to Western

Connecticut State University, with Pinou, who is now a professor of biological and environmental sciences, designated as the inaugural faculty curator of the H.G. Dowling Herpetological Collection at WCSU. She is working with Western's archivist, Brian Stevens, to not only organize the collection but also make it available to scholars.

Dowling had a broad interest in all reptiles and amphibians, but his greatest contributions were in the resolution of generic relationships of snakes and his classification of the snakes of the world. His library contains notes from correspondences with herpetological giants like Arnold Grobman, Norman Hartweg, Emmett Reid Dunn, James Oliver and others. The library of his life's work contains specimens, field notes and drawings, photos and slides, and the 500 books that he purchased over his 50-year career.

"His collection positions us as a player in global herpetology," Pinou said. "End of discussion."

Stevens said the Dowling library can be the first step in building a significant archive of scientific research at the university.

"We can use it as a cornerstone," he said. "The point of taking this on is to build on it, so a visit to that archive may not only lead you to something serendipitous but may also bring you back to explore something else." Once the collection is organized, it will allow students to work with specimens and related documents collected as far back as the 1940s.

"For an undergrad, that would be pretty cool," Stevens said.

Pinou, the daughter of Greek immigrants and the first in her family to attend college, was the last student Herndon guided through the Ph.D. process before he retired.

"He was the most influential person in my life," she said. "He took me to meetings, he helped me write, I trusted his judgment, he was on my side. He invested tremendous energy and resources in his students, encouraged them, and stepped up when there were unexpected consequences. It had a great effect on me and influenced my view of the student-mentor relationship and collegiality. He was in the Marines in WWII, and you could see that in how he treated people — the foundation for his commitment

to trust, dedication and fellowship among people with common goals. He believed that teamwork would accomplish more than independent entities acting alone. Probably every student and colleague he knew feels the same way. He was completely committed to his students and scholarship, probably sometimes more than to his own family. There must have been nights his wife wanted him home — but he was with me in the lab studying manuscripts!"

Pinou emphatically admired everything about Herndon.

"His early handwriting is like pieces of art," she said. "Tiny letters. Perfect! He was from a generation of perfect people."

Pinou is already familiar with Herndon's library because he gave her access to it for her own research.

"I've been working with it all these years," Pinou said. "Now it's a question of prioritizing and thinking about how it should be used, how to access it. What is the strength of the collection and how will we make it available to the public?"

Because of the university's location in a metropolitan region, Pinou envisions scholars from throughout the eastern United States taking advantage of Herndon's insights.

"Snake systematists and anyone interested in snake biology will be here," Pinou said. "The field notes permit scholars to gain insight on how biodiversity has changed in 50 to 75 years. Plus the notes! There are theses written in the margins of his books — questions, observations, waiting for someone to answer."

In addition to his work in higher education, Dowling had been curator of reptiles at the Bronx Zoo (1965 – 1973), a researcher at the American Museum of Natural History, and editor of several herpetology journals. When he retired from NYU in 1991 at the age of 70, he returned to his home state of Alabama, built an office and laboratory at his house, and continued his research. In addition to working with Pinou on several projects, he produced papers with other scholars on subjects such as the early stages of molecular immunology and evolutionary biology.

"We are very excited to receive the Dowling collection," said Dr. Missy Alexander, dean of the Macricostas School of Arts and Sciences. "It has tremendous historical significance and will certainly inspire new scholarship. It is a testament to Dr. Pinou's commitment to her field and her mentor's legacy. This is one more indication that biology is truly a signature program at WCSU."

Pinou and Stevens are in the process of applying for grants to hire an assistant with a scientific background to help go through the materials and put them in searchable order, a precise project that undoubtedly would please Dowling.

"He supported the enterprise of knowledge," Pinou said. "He would let us use his journals and his papers. But when we were done we couldn't return it to the file. We had to give it to him — and he would return it to the file to make sure it was in the proper place." ■



Dr. Jane Goodall discusses 'Sowing the Seeds of Hope'

Primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall, a longtime friend of Western Connecticut State University, visited campus to celebrate the university's new permaculture garden and sound a hopeful note about the fate of the world.

Before a full house in Ives Concert Hall, Goodall chastised current political leaders and challenged young people to step up.

"If any of you students in this room are thinking that we've compromised our future, you're right," Goodall said. "We totally have. Is it true there's nothing that can be done? I choose not to believe that. I think we have a window of time. I don't think it's big, but I think we have a window of time. If our youth loses hope, we give up."

Climate change brought about by the use of fossil fuels is something the next generation will have to address, Goodall said.

"Isn't it peculiar that the most intellectual creature to ever walk Planet Earth is destroying its only home? It's pretty clear from those pictures from Mars that it is not a hospitable environment. I don't want to go to Mars, and I don't imagine any of you do, either. We've got Planet Earth, and Planet Earth has finite resources. We are using them as though they will go on forever, and they won't."

After signing copies of her New York Times bestselling book, "Seeds of Hope: Wisdom and Wonder from the World of Plants," Goodall dedicated the 900-square-foot permaculture garden adjacent to the Science Building on the Midtown campus.

WCSU Professor of Anthropology Dr. Laurie Weinstein, who chairs the Jane Goodall Center for Excellence in Environmental Studies at Western, was instrumental in orchestrating both the creation of the permaculture garden and Goodall's campus appearance.

"Jane has visited our campus at least a dozen times since she established the Jane Goodall Center for Excellence in Environmental Studies at WCSU 15 years ago," Weinstein said. "She is our inspiration to keep doing what we are doing: the permaculture garden, community outreach with local schools, businesses and organizations, and keeping her mission alive through our Roots & Shoots student club. All of these projects, and many more, were directly inspired by Jane. She is the most influential, inspirational and motivational person I have ever met in my life." ■





The new Wellness and Holistic Center opened its doors in November.

Finding Serenity on Campus

by Robin Provey

Western Connecticut State University opened its new campus Wellness Suite and Meditation Garden and celebrated with a ribbon-cutting in November in its Berkshire Hall location on the Middtown campus.

The new space on campus has been transformed into an oasis of peace and serenity promoting health of the body, mind and spirit. A common room provides space for small workshops, guided meditation and yoga, while three treatment rooms serve as space for individual Reiki, massage, nutrition counseling or health coaching appointments. The sense of peace and tranquility extends to the outdoors in the meditation garden next to Berkshire Hall.

The new director of the Institute for Holistic Health Studies at WCSU, Christel Autuori, began her career as a chairside dental assistant. A graduate of Forsyth School for Dental Hygienists and the University of Bridgeport, she earned a master's degree in Integrative Health and Healing and is a certified Integrative Health Coach, trained at Duke Integrative. She is a registered yoga teacher, a certified AcuYoga instructor, and a certified Holistic Stress Management Instructor, and holds active dental hygiene licenses in Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

"I have been passionate about the holistic and integrative approach to health and healing for several years and am completely enjoying my focus here on campus," Autuori said. "With the new Wellness Center and Meditation Garden, we have a physical space in which to provide educational opportunities not only for the campus community, but the community at large. The healing power of nature is powerful medicine in itself. Take a moment to enjoy the natural beauty and experience the healing that Mother Nature can provide."

Autuori teaches yoga and maintains a private health coaching and stress management practice in Ridgefield. An active volunteer with the Connecticut Mission of Mercy, she has developed and implemented programs of dental and community health education in rural Honduras with the humanitarian organization, Cape CARES. ■



WCSU's 'Parade' earns five national awards

at Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival

When Western Connecticut State University opened its spectacular Visual and Performing Arts Center in 2014, the facilities finally caught up to the outstanding teaching already happening in the Art, Music and Theatre departments.

If anyone ever doubted the truth of that statement, the School of Visual and Performing Arts now has further proof to back it up.

In March, the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival announced it recognized Western's Department of Theatre Arts with five national awards for the fall production of "Parade."

The awards, given in an April 16 ceremony at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., included Outstanding Production of a Musical, the top award a production can receive within the collegiate field. In addition, faculty, students and staff were also awarded:

Outstanding Director of a Musical:

Tim Howard (Assistant Professor / Coordinator of Musical Theatre program)

Outstanding Choreography or Movement

Direction: Tim Howard and Elizabeth Parkinson

Outstanding Performance by an Actress in

a Musical: Shaylen Harger (BA Musical Theatre – sophomore)

Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a

Musical: Matthew Grasso (BA Musical Theatre – senior)

Jamie Begian, Interim Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, said the recognition reinforces the department's standing as one of the outstanding theatre arts programs in the Northeast.



"Western's Theatre Arts program has been excellent for years," Begian said. "We are so proud of everyone in the department for these wonderful honors. It is a great acknowledgment of the tremendous talent, effort and work ethic of the students, faculty and staff. I believe it will lead to even greater things for the department, the school and the university."

The university hosted the Region One KCACTF conference this past January, bringing hundreds of theatre students from around the Northeast to campus for three days of workshops, lectures and performances. The Region One KCACTF festival will return to Western in 2017 and 2018.



Visual & Performing Arts Center claims 'Best of CT' Award

The Visual and Performing Arts Center (VPAC) at Western Connecticut State University has earned yet another recognition — this time a “Best of Connecticut” award from the publishers of Connecticut Magazine.

In the magazine’s 18th annual compilation of “all the things we think make our state such a special place,” Western’s VPAC was named “Best Performing Arts Venue: College.”

Describing the WCSU venue, the editors at Connecticut Magazine wrote, “It is rare that the moment you walk into a theater or concert hall a standing ovation seems in order, but that’s the case at Western Connecticut State University’s \$97 million 130,000-square-foot Visual and Performing Arts Center. The main theater and separate acoustically designed musical hall are, in a word, breathtaking.”

Interim Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts Jamie Begian was not surprised by the latest recognition.

“This center represents a tremendous investment by the state of Connecticut to offer a top-flight place of learning for young people, a place where important dreams are dreamed — and then realized,” Begian said. “We will continue to strive to live up to the promise our new facility offers and the promise of those students in pursuit of excellence in the arts at Western.”

The September 2015 acknowledgment from Connecticut Magazine is the latest in a string of accolades. Earlier this year, a list published by Collegedegreesearch.net, a web-based search engine designed to help students determine their best college options, named Western’s VPAC as No. 9 on a nationwide list of “The 25 Most Amazing Campus Arts Centers.”



Jimmy Greene’s ‘Beautiful Life’ nominated for two Grammy awards

Western Connecticut State University Coordinator of Jazz Studies and Assistant Professor of Music Jimmy Greene’s CD, “Beautiful Life,” was nominated for two Grammy Awards by the Recording Academy. Released by Mack Avenue Records, “Beautiful Life” pays tribute to Greene’s daughter, Ana Marquez-Greene, who died in the December 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Greene’s moving celebration of his daughter’s life was nominated for Best Jazz Instrumental Album and Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals for the song, “When I Come Home.”

WCSU music professor to serve as interim Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts

Western Connecticut State University Assistant Professor of Music Jamie Begian has been named the interim Dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, taking the place of former Dean Dr. Dan Goble. Begian, who previously served as chair of the Department of Music and Jazz Studies Program coordinator, has been a full-time faculty member at the university since 2005.



The Beatles invade WCSU

A remarkable photographic chronicle by legendary Life Magazine photojournalist Bill Eppridge of the Beatles’ historic 1964 visit to the United States was featured in a Western Connecticut State University Art Gallery exhibition this winter at the university’s Visual and Performing Arts Center.

“Bill Eppridge — The Beatles: Six Days That Changed the World, February 1964,” featured a collection of 55 black-and-white photographs taken by Eppridge during his coverage for Life of the British rock group’s visit to New York and Washington from Feb. 7 through 12, 1964. Eppridge, who resided in New Milford in his later years, died in October 2013 after an extraordinary career as a photojournalist spanning 60 years. He is widely recognized for capturing iconic images of contemporary history including the Beatles’ Feb. 9, 1964, appearance on “The Ed Sullivan Show” and the poignant image on June 6, 1968, of a busboy kneeling beside the mortally wounded Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a Los Angeles hotel kitchen moments after his assassination. “You are not just a photojournalist,” he said in recalling the Kennedy image. “You’re a historian.”

The WCSU exhibition of selections from his 1964 Beatles tour photo shoot, taking more than 90 rolls of film and 3,000 photographs, would have been impossible without the painstaking work of Eppridge’s editor and wife, Adrienne Aurichio, to review and organize this vast photo archive into a comprehensive record of the Beatles’ Tour as it unfolded.

Aurichio recalled that the 26-year-old Eppridge found himself in the right place on the morning of Feb. 7, 1964, to draw the assignment from Life Magazine photography director Dick Pollard to cover the Beatles’ arrival that day at John F. Kennedy Airport in New York. He followed the Beatles as Life’s photo correspondent throughout the first six days of their U.S. tour, shooting spontaneous images.

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2014-15

- P** **President's Club** (\$1,000+)
Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$1,000 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts. These donations are allocated to the university's greatest needs as determined by the president. President's Club donors have placed their trust in the WCSU mission and remain some of our most faithful advocates.
- F** **Fairfield Hall Society** (\$500 – \$999)
With their support, these members enhance our students' collegiate experience and invest in our faculty's ever-evolving needs. Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$500 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts.
- W** **WestConn Society** (\$250 – \$499)
The earliest established giving arm of the WCSU Foundation, this group has for decades supported innovative programs, outreach opportunities and enrichment initiatives. Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$250 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts.
- C** **Century Club** (\$100 – \$249)
By far the largest participating giving group, these alumni, parents and friends provide an invaluable endorsement of a Western education. Members of this group have made an annual financial commitment of at least \$100 to the WCSU Foundation without placing restrictions on the purpose of their gifts.
- Loyalty Society**
Members of this group have given to WCSU for at least five consecutive years, regardless of the amount. We count on these loyal donors who heartily believe in the university and do tremendous good through the simple act of contributing annually.

The following represents giving from July 1, 2014, through June 30, 2015.

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Today, Western Connecticut State University educates more than 6,000 students a year, many of whom cannot afford a college education without the support of our alumni and friends. In fact, some of the largest support Western receives comes in the form of charitable bequests.

A bequest, a gift through a will or other estate planning vehicle, affords the donor both the flexibility and ability to benefit future generations of Western students and faculty. Our Office of Institutional Advancement is available to work with you and your advisers to provide suggested language for bequests, and to help craft a legacy that satisfies both your philanthropic and estate planning goals.

For more information, please contact Institutional Advancement at (203) 837-8111 or lebarronl@wcsu.edu. Thank you for your continuing support of Western. ■

The Office of Institutional Advancement has taken great care to ensure that the information contained in this Honor Roll is accurate and complete. However, errors do occur occasionally. If you were a contributor to WCSU between July 1, 2014, and June 30, 2015, and did not receive any goods or services for your contribution, but find your name missing, misspelled, listed under the wrong heading or not in the format that you requested, please accept our sincere apologies. Please note that in the alumni section, alumni are listed without spouses unless the spouse is an alumnus/a also, in which case he/she appears alone in his/her graduation year as well. Also, the total donation amount includes only those donations to the WCSU Foundation and Alumni Association that were tax-deductible. Please help us correct our records by contacting Lynne LeBarron at (203) 837-8188 or lebarronl@wcsu.edu. A correction will be printed in next year's report.



Entrepreneur of the year Peter D'Amico (center) with family and university supporters, including Deno and Marie Macricostas, left.

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Peter D'Amico and Dr. Chris Kukk, director of Western's Kathwari Honors Program, discusses D'Amico's business career during the "Entrepreneur of the Year" luncheon.

LEGACY SOCIETY

This giving group was established to recognize those individuals who have made a charitable provision for WCSU in their estate plans. By joining the Legacy Society, you can make a significant contribution to benefit generations to come at the university. Please contact the Development Office at (203) 837-8111 to learn more about joining this group.

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Rudy Behrens, left, and Mary Behrens, at Rudy's recital performance in the Visual and Performing Arts Center.

Rudy Behrens is a familiar, and welcome, presence on campus

Chances are that anyone who visits either WCSU campus has seen Rudy Behrens, recognizable from his floppy hat and his sunglasses. There is a high possibility you spotted him in a classroom; he has taken 104 courses over the past 22 years since he retired as a research manager for a large chemical company. He is also a frequent visitor to lectures and performances on campus, particularly those of music students. Behrens and his wife, Mary, have a special affinity for the Music Department, which they support with annual gifts. Behrens also performs and gave a piano recital in October in the Veronica Hagman Concert Hall.

Behrens has played the piano since he was eight, when his mother bought him a second-hand instrument on the condition that he practice for one hour a day. He kept his promise for several days, but one evening his father came home from work and found young Rudy playing baseball with friends in their New Jersey neighborhood. Dad dragged Rudy to the piano stool and Behrens remembers thinking, "I've got to do it, so I might as well have a good time."

He developed a love for the piano, which earned him money playing in a big band as a high school student, and kept him from the front during the Korean War. He entered the Navy as a hospital corpsman and taught chemistry, directed the glee club at a hospital and played shows and dances in a big band.

Music indirectly led Behrens to his career as a chemist, too.

The market for live musicians was grinding to a halt as nightclub and hotel owners discovered they could provide taped music as accompaniment, causing a young piano player to realize he wasn't going to make a living doing what he loved. A high school teacher suggested Behrens take a chemistry course. Things weren't going well, Behrens said, until a substitute was assigned for the regular teacher. The substitute was an English teacher and knew nothing about chemistry. Behrens and some of the other students

decided to work with the new teacher to learn the syllabus together.

"That got me on the happy side of that subject, just like I did with music," Behrens said.

With a degree in chemistry from Rutgers, Behrens realized he loved research. He is listed as the primary inventor on 30 U.S. patents and created several new products, including one that won him a national award.

Toward the end of his career he was diagnosed with a macular degeneration, an eye disease that rendered him legally blind, hence the hat and sunglasses to protect his eyes from glare. Behrens continues to regularly play piano, including at the Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury. He composes music, too, and presented his own work at the WCSU recital. Although Behrens often peppers his conversations with idioms and quips, he is serious about his composition, which is made up of three "moods": classical, jazz and romantic. (Behrens reveals his humorous side in a book published last year: "Philidioms and Other Thoughts to Live and Laugh By," available on Amazon. He gave 171 copies of the book to students at his concert.)

Jamie Began, interim dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts, said students especially appreciated Behrens' performance and discussion from the stage.

"Rudy Behrens' heartfelt musical presentation and subsequent discussion of his lifetime experiences was priceless," Began said. "His wealth of experiences in both the musical world and professional world was an eye-opener for the students accustomed to just seeing him around the hallways here."

Began noted that students also appreciate the Behrens' generous gifts to the school. "It is crucial to our mission." Behrens, a longtime New Fairfield resident, began his career at Western with music classes and has since taken courses in each of the university's four schools.

"I want the activity," Behrens said. "I have to keep learning. As the WWII admiral, 'Bull' Halsey said, 'When the learning stops, the dying begins.'" ■

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President John B. Clark discusses university business with university friends at a President's Club celebration.

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Communication Professor Emeritus Hugh McCahey attended the Emeriti Luncheon with many other retired professors and staff.

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ALUMNI ASSOCIATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Gifts in Kind Alumni Association Golf Tournament

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BJ's
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Chuck's Steak House
Church Hill Classics
Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo
Danbury Hampton Inn
Ethan Allen Hotel and Fairfield's Restaurant and Bar
Gouveia Vineyards
Ingersoll Auto of Danbury
Lake Compounce
Mobil 1 Lube Express and Car Wash
Mohegan Sun
New Britain Museum of American Art
New Britain Rock Cats Baseball
Richter Park Golf Course
Ridgewood Country Club
Stew Leonard's
The Children's Museum
The Winery at St. George
Warner Theatre
WCSU Bookstore
WCSU President's Office
Westport Country Playhouse

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The annual Neil Wagner Alumni Golf Tournament, held at Richter Park in Danbury on Sept. 28, raised more than \$20,000 for student scholarships.



WESTERN NAMES NEW WOMEN'S & MEN'S LACROSSE



JENNIFER THOMAS



Jennifer (Jenn) Thomas has been named the third women's lacrosse head coach at Western Connecticut State University.

"When I depart Western at the end of this month, I will leave with confidence that the women's lacrosse program will be headed by one of the most energetic coaches I have seen during my 29 years at the helm," said WCSU Director of Athletics Ed Farrington, who retired in January. "Jenn Thomas has a very bright future ahead of her as a head coach and Western is extremely fortunate that she is starting her collegiate career here in Danbury."

Thomas, a native of Waterford, was an assistant coach at Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pennsylvania and had the honor to coach a First-Team All-American, a First-Team All-Star student-athlete, four IWLCA Region players, a pair of North/South Senior All-Stars, seven All-Conference (PSAC) stars and 10 IWLCA All-Academic Honor Roll Players. During that time, Mercyhurst was named Top Team GPA in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference for three consecutive years, IWLCA Academic Honor Squad, and received the 2015 Academic Merit Squad Award for the top GPA in the country within NCAA Division II.

Prior to her appointment at Mercyhurst, Thomas was an assistant coach at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. While with the Lyons, she mentored three All-NEWMAC players, two IWLCA All-Region players and two ECAC First-Team All Stars. MHC received IWLCA Academic Honors and appeared

in the NEWMAC Tournament during her tenure.

"I feel unbelievably fortunate to be appointed as the head women's lacrosse coach for Western Connecticut State University," stated Thomas. "I am incredibly grateful that WCSU President Clark and Athletic Director Ed Farrington have provided me with such a wonderful opportunity to lead the Colonials."

"I look forward to making a name for Western within the Little East Conference and Division III women's lacrosse. Furthermore, I am ecstatic to share my vision with prospective student-athletes and convey the opportunities Western and the women's lacrosse program offers."

Thomas began her collegiate playing career at American International College (AIC) in Springfield, Massachusetts, as a scholarship student-athlete. For the Yellow Jackets, she starred in the midfield and in the defense side of the field.

She transferred to Springfield College and was a draw specialist in her junior and senior year. Thomas led the Pride to back-to-back New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEWMAC) Conference Championships in 2012 and 2013 and led Springfield to two straight trips to the NCAA Division III Women's Lacrosse Championship Tournament. She was named team captain for Springfield in her senior campaign.

Scholastically at Waterford High School, Thomas was a Connecticut All-Area and All-Conference selection and captained the team her final season in high school after only playing for two years. She is a three-sport varsity letter winner in soccer, basketball and lacrosse and was named "Student of the Year" in 2009 for superior leadership. ■



CROSSE COACHES

RYAN CAVANAGH



Ryan Cavanagh has been named head men's lacrosse coach at Western Connecticut State University.

"I'm excited about appointing Ryan as our third head men's lacrosse coach," stated WCSU Director of Athletics Ed Farrington. "He comes from a program that was very successful on

the field and he has a great history as a top recruiter in the Northeast."

Cavanagh comes to Western after four successful seasons as Head Coach at SUNY Plattsburgh in upstate New York.

"I would first like to thank Athletic Director Ed Farrington for giving me the opportunity to build something special here at Western," said Cavanagh. "I am excited to start the process of turning our team into a nationally competitive program. We are not only going to develop great lacrosse players but great young men who want to compete at the highest level."

Cavanagh began his collegiate coaching career in 2011 at Plattsburgh State. In his four seasons at the helm, the Cardinals never failed to appear in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Tournament and advance to the SUNYAC Tournament finals in each of the last three seasons. Cavanagh left the upstate institution with the most career wins and the highest winning percentage (.689) of any Plattsburgh State lacrosse coach.

In 2013, Cavanagh was named SUNYAC and Jac Coyne Magazines Coach of the Year, becoming the first coach in

the 15-year history of the program to receive the league's highest coaching honor.

Cavanagh played for the Cardinals from 2005-07 after his collegiate career began at Nassau Community College. He earned All-SUNYAC Honorable Mention honors as a senior and still holds Plattsburgh State records with a .630 single-season face-off winning percentage and a .581 career face-off efficiency.

Furthermore, Cavanagh received the SUNY Plattsburgh Vision Award for Community in May 2010 after spearheading the team's involvement with the St. Baldrick's Foundation, a children's cancer research organization. He helped raise more than \$38,000 for St. Baldrick's through numerous events including four "Cardinals Clip Cancer" games. ■

CAVANAGH'S COACHING RECORD

SEASON	SCHOOL	RECORD	PCT.	CONF/PLACE
2012	Plattsburgh	11-7	.611	4-2/3rd
2013	Plattsburgh	4-4	.778	5-1/2nd
2014	Plattsburgh	13-6	.684	4-2/3rd
2015	Plattsburgh	13-6	.684	4-2/2nd
Four years	Plattsburgh totals	51-23	.689	17-7



ED FARRINGTON DEPARTS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR POST

After 29 years at the helm of the Western Connecticut State University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Ed Farrington retired on Jan. 31.

Since his arrival in 1986, Western's programs have made 62 NCAA Division III Tournament appearances, led by the women's basketball team's 12 showings. The softball and women's soccer programs have each appeared in 11 NCAA tournaments. On the men's side, basketball and soccer have appeared in the NCAAs nine and seven times, respectively.

In 2002, the softball team advanced to the Division III College World Series in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The women's soccer team advanced to the Division III Finals in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, in 2007.

Farrington has been a member of the executive committee for the National Association of Collegiate Athletic Directors of America (NACDA) and the Little East Conference. In 2013, he was the recipient of the NACDA Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year Award.

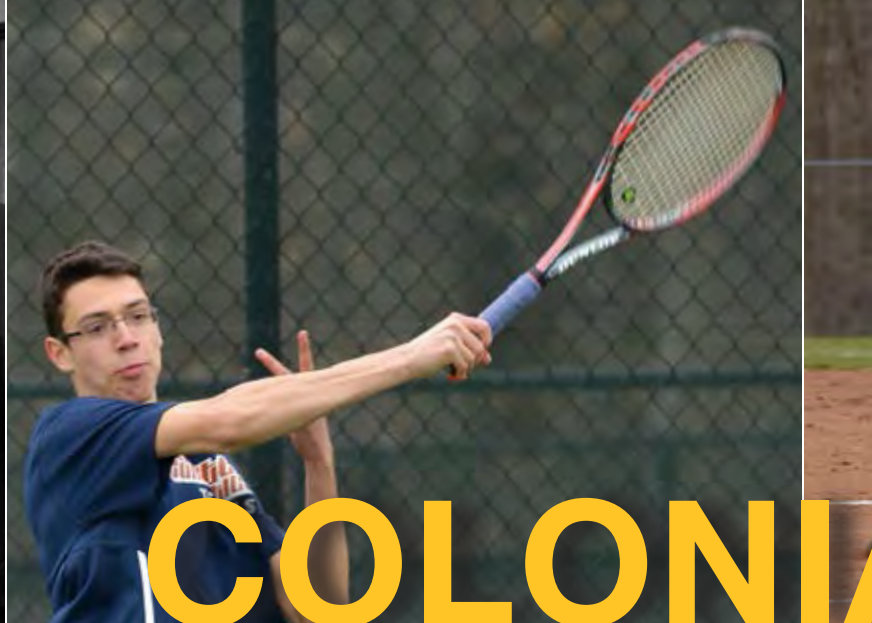
At Western, he has overseen a department that includes approximately 350 student-athletes each year in 14 varsity sports.

A native of Rutherford, New Jersey, Farrington played football at and graduated from SCSU in 1966. He was a graduate assistant at Sam Houston (Texas) State, where he received his master's degree. He has a sixth-year certificate from Fairfield University.

He was a high school football coach in New Jersey for seven years, before moving to Joel Barlow High School in Redding, where he was head football coach from 1975 to 1979 and athletic director until 1984.

His college coaching experience includes two years on the Southern Connecticut football staff and four years on the staff at Western.

Farrington resides in Newtown with his wife Linda. ■



MEN'S TENNIS

The Western men's tennis team finished the 2015 season with a 3-9 record, losing in the first round in the Little East Conference Post-Season Tournament.

Unfortunately the team experienced a coaching change a week before the first scheduled match and had not been practicing and preparing for the upcoming season. Fortunately, former Western alum and Head Women's Tennis Coach Shawn Stillman ('94) was available to take the reins.

Despite early-season setback, the men challenged all season with many of their results coming down to the final matches.

The 2016 squad promises to be much improved as the players have been practicing and actually competing in a match last fall.

The addition of a couple of new players gives Stillman promise to have an instant impact to the lineup.

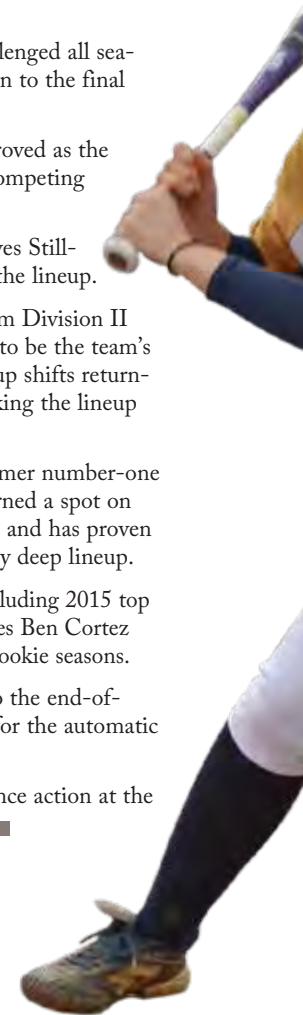
Sophomore Marco Gobbato, a transfer from Division II Chestnut Hill College, has already proven to be the team's top singles player. His addition to the lineup shifts returning players down one ranking, thereby making the lineup even stronger.

Additionally, freshman David Farina, a former number-one singles player at Danbury High School, earned a spot on the team during the non-traditional season and has proven that he will be a solid addition to an already deep lineup.

Six players return from last year's roster, including 2015 top singles player, Jason Hipona and sophomores Ben Cortez and Jeff Hensley, who each had successful rookie seasons.

Stillman's goal will be to advance deep into the end-of-the-year conference playoffs and compete for the automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament.

The Colonials opened Little East Conference action at the University of Southern Maine on April 2. ■





AL STARS & STATS

SOFTBALL

Heather Stone ('94) enters her 10th season as the head softball coach at her alma mater this spring.

In her first nine years, the Colonials have won 247 games and made three of the program's 11 NCAA appearances, the last in 2014.

A year ago with a good mix of veterans and talented newcomers, the Colonials went 27-14 overall and 11-3 in Little East Conference play.

Western advanced to the LEC Championship game before falling to cross-state rival Eastern Connecticut State University.

This season, Western will turn to a very successful veteran pitching staff including the senior duo of Emily Cinterino and Alle Sabith.

Cinterino went 13-5 in 2015 with a 2.30 earned-run average as she struck out 109 in 122 innings. She registered 11 complete games and four shutouts during her junior year.

Sabith had an 11-8 record with a 2.65 ERA and 73 strikeouts in over 100 innings.

Offensively, the Colonials batted .333 as a team a year ago. The top returning hitters are Erin Weber and Maegan Rodriguez. Weber, a catcher, batted .359 with seven doubles, two triples and a home run. She scored 21 runs and batted in 11 others. Rodriguez, who can play at any outfield position, batted .356 with six doubles, a triple and one home run. She and Weber each had a .426 on-base percentage. ■



BASEBALL

A year ago, winter weather forced the Western baseball team, under the guidance of longtime coach Johnny Susi, to play its first 24 games on the road.

During that stretch, the Colonials went 12-12 and then won their first two home games over Nichols and Trinity Colleges. They dropped 10 of the final 13 games of the season but still qualified for the Little East Conference Tournament. It was the ninth time one of Susi's teams qualified for the league championship. In 2002, the Colonials captured the LEC title and made the program's only appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Susi feels that returning to the LEC to battle for the coveted crown is a possibility due to three very strong senior pitchers.

Returning for their final seasons will be Craig Frobel, Todd Lyons and Edgar Santiago. A year ago, Frobel and Lyons combined for a 5-9 record and were slated as the starting pitchers of nearly every weekend LEC doubleheader.

Santiago, a lefty, returns after being sidelined in 2015. In 2014, he went 4-2 with a solid 3.98 earned-run average and a team-leading 44 strikeouts in 52 innings.

Joining the trio of veteran hurlers will be eight of nine offensive returners.

All-Little East Conference honoree Chris Callahan and Matt Green batted .393 and .368, respectively last season and drove in 55 runs for more than 28 percent of Western's run production.

Around the diamond, Frank Vartuli (first base), Joseph Costa (second base), E.J. Lavoie (shortstop) and Joseph Daigle (third base) all supply valuable experience in a defense that committed just 39 errors on 625 fielding chances.

Vartuli led the group of veteran infielders with a .294 batting average with nine doubles and 25 RBIs.

Bryan Harper heads a strong list of veterans and newcomers behind the plate. Last season, Harper appeared in 31 games and batted .274 with five doubles and 13 runs batted in. ■

ALUMNI EVENTS 2016



AUG
6

Spend a fun-filled day with family, friends & fellow alums at **Lake Compounce!**

The \$40 per person cost (children ages 3 & under are admitted and eat for free) includes:

- Admission to the park
- Free parking
- All-you-can-eat lunch buffet at the Lakeside Catering Pavilion from noon to 2:30 p.m.
- Unlimited free soda all day throughout the park
- Unlimited rides, shows and attractions (except the Skycoaster)
- **Voucher for a return trip to the park!**

Thimble Islands Private Cruise

Spend a summer day on the water! Take a 45-minute narrated tour of the Thimble Islands in Branford on the Volsunga. After the cruise, we will visit the U.S.S. Chowder Pot III in Branford for lunch. We will then stop at a farm stand in North Branford to treat ourselves to a frozen custard. The cost includes transportation, tip and boat ride. \$49 per person.

RSVP by Friday, June 24, via mail using the reservation form below, going online at alumni.wcsu.edu/events or calling the WCSU Office of Alumni Relations at (203) 837-8298. Space is limited, so act fast. Reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis until all seats are filled.

Transportation will depart WCSU's Midtown campus at 9 a.m. from University Hall on White Street and return to Danbury at approximately 5 p.m.

JULY
9



SEP
26

Alumni **Golf Tournament**

Join us for a fun-filled day of golf to benefit student scholarships. Pull together your foursome, and get ready to win great prizes, eat delicious food and have a full day of laughing and reconnecting with old friends at one of Connecticut's best golf clubs: Richter Park in Danbury.



The Bronx Experience

Please choose your Bronx experience between the three options:

Bronx Zoo — The Total Experience package includes admission into the zoo and unlimited access to special rides and attractions available on your date of visit. The \$49 per person includes admission, total experience and transportation.

New York Botanical Garden — The Total Experience package includes the Impressionism: American Gardens on Canvas exhibition and the popular guided Garden Highlights tram tour. The \$49 per person includes admission, total experience and transportation.

On Your Own on Arthur Avenue — Explore on your own the authentic Italian culture located in the vibrant community of the Real Little Italy in the Bronx, known as Arthur Avenue. Cost is \$30 per person.

Transportation will depart the WCSU Middtown campus, University Hall at 8:30 a.m. and return at 7 p.m. Please RSVP by Friday, May 20.

JUNE 11



MAY 22

Commencement 2016 at Harbor Yard

We need graduates of the past — you and your peers — to lead the graduates of today as they embark upon the next stage of their association with WCSU.



Save the date!

AUGUST 5
A Day in Saratoga, New York

More information to follow. Call (203) 837-8298 to RSVP.



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RSVP:

Note specific RSVP dates. Mail reservation form (along with payment) to the WCSU Office of Alumni Relations, 181 White St., Danbury, CT 06810. Email alumni@wcsu.edu or call (203) 837-8298 for information. Reservations will not be confirmed until payment is received.

Please make your selection(s):

DAY TRIP	PRICE PER PERSON	x NUMBER IN PARTY	= TOTAL PAYMENT
Golf Tournament (TBD)	\$36/person	_____	_____
The Bronx Experience (RSVP May 20)	\$30/person	_____	_____
The Bronx Experience (RSVP May 20)	\$49/person	_____	_____
Thimble Islands Private Cruise (RSVP June 17)	\$49/person	_____	_____
Day at Lake Compounce (RSVP July 15)	\$40/person	_____	_____

*Children under 3 are admitted free

TOTAL: \$ _____

- A check is enclosed (made payable to the WCSU Foundation/Alumni Events)
- Please charge my: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express
- Name as it appears on card _____
- Credit card no. _____
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- Century Club \$100 to \$249

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